



STATE OF MAINE
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
MAINE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0028

John Elias Baldacci
GOVERNOR

Seth H. Bradstreet, III
COMMISSIONER

September 14, 2010

Senator Nancy B. Sullivan, Senate Chair
Representative Pamela Jabar Trinward, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veteran Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Senator Sullivan:
Representative Trinward:

As requested by the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs, I am submitting this review of the allocation of slot machine revenue in accordance with Public Law 2009c. 571 Part FFF.

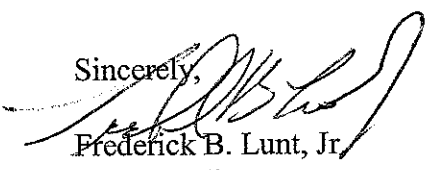
This review of the distribution of the Agricultural Fair Support Fund pertains to the Agricultural Fair Coordinator Account (014-01A-5695-01) and the 25 Licensed Agricultural Fairs, all of whom receive funds. 3% of the net revenue from the slot machine facility is distributed to licensed Maine Agricultural Fairs. Of the 3% going to the Maine Agricultural Fairs, 34% of the revenue is distributed to all harness racing tracks (2 commercial tracks and 9 fair tracks) with the remaining 66% going to all licensed Maine Agricultural Fairs. The distribution of the Agricultural Fair Support Fund is done on the calendar year. The funds earned in 2005 were not distributed to the Fairs until early in 2006. The spending of the Racino funds by the Fairs started in calendar year of 2006.

Most all the Maine Agricultural Fairs are run by volunteers, and very few have full time employees. I requested a breakdown of how the Racino money was spent by each Fair, and found that most Fairs did not keep the Racino funds separate from their operating funds. You can see from the enclosed schedules, the money was used to improve the fairgrounds, or to increase premiums paid to exhibitors at the fairs.

Prior to receiving funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund Maine Fairs did and still do receive money from the Stipend Fund. This Fund has for the past several years decreased, as its source of money comes from the Harness Racing Handle. This Fund has decreased over 16% since 2003.

The Agricultural Fair Support Fund has made up the shortfall allowing Agricultural Fairs to make needed capital improvements to the grounds, give back more premiums to exhibitors and provided more agricultural demonstrations as well as higher quality entertainment. In short, many of the Maine Fairs would not be able to keep up with the ever changing regulations and requests from the public if the Agricultural Fair Support Fund was not available.

Sincerely,



Frederick B. Lunt, Jr.
Fair Coordinator

Review of Allocation of Slot Machine Revenue
Agricultural Fairs
September 2010

The Agricultural Fair account (014-01A-5695-01) receives 13% of the 66% of the Premium Reimbursement Fund available each year to the 25 Agricultural Fairs since 2005. The funds are used exclusively to support the activities of this program. The Funds are distributed on a calendar year. Funds are used for personal services, fringe benefits, for the Fair Coordinator (Agricultural Promotional Coordinator) testing of pulling animals and the Pull Event Commission expenses. The expenses of the Fair Evaluators are also paid from this account as outline in the State Statutes. Other expenses such as vehicle expense, expenses of the mobile exhibits, travel and general operating expense are paid from these funds.

The following shows the amounts received and amounts expended in totals;

Year	Amount Received	Amount Spent
2006	\$9,159.00	\$121,204.00
2007	\$82,045.00	123,387.00
2008	95,636.00	137,525.00
2009	112,612.00	137,811.00
2010	133,281.00	to April 2010 115,879.00

This account also receives funds from the Stipend Fund. Since 2003 to date this fund has reduces by 16%. The Premium Reimbursement Fund has provided funding to make up for reduction. This account only operates from dedicated funding.

Bangor State Fair
Bangor, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$3,083.00
2007	24,198.00
2008	28,470.00
2009	23,014.00
2010	35,409.00
Total Received	<u>\$1,141,740.00</u>

This is a municipal owned and operated Fair. The revenues from the Bangor State Fair become part of the total operating budget of the Bass Park Fund.

Average paid attendance for 2006 to 2009 is 58,000 people.

Clinton Lions Club Fair
Clinton, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,188.00
2007	10,254.00
2008	13,297.00
2009	18,658.00
2010	22,766.00
Total Received	<u>\$66,163.00</u>

The Fair reported using The Agricultural Fair Support Funds on the following:

New food and office building, improvements to other buildings	\$25,587.00
New equipment for buildings and grounds	20,929.00
Sound System updating	1,824.00
Electrical work	22,456.00
Water, Sewer and earthwork	35,964.00
Signs and fencing	5,462.00
Purchase of land (over 5yrs) and interest	20,834.00
Total spent	<u>\$133,056.00</u>

Average reported paid attendance for 2006-2009 is 14,500 people

Cochnewagon Agricultural Association
Monmouth Fair
Monmouth, Maine

The Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$628.00
2007	5,414.00
2008	6,229.00
2009	6,917.00
2010	8,237.00
Total received	<u>\$27,425.00</u>

This Fair reported spending the following funds:

Improvements to buildings and new buildings	\$13,092.00
Increase premiums paid to exhibitors	13,681.00
Update electrical system	7,570.00
Improvement to exhibits	750.00
Total spent	<u>\$35,093.00</u>

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 4200 people.

Cumberland Farmers Club
Cumberland Fair
Cumberland, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the distribution of the Agricultural Support Fund;

2006	\$4,823.00
2007	44,033.00
2008	48,765.00
2009	66,335.00
2010	66,415.00
Total Received	<u>\$230,371.00</u>

This Fair reported spending the following funds on improvements:

Improvements to buildings	\$65,333.00
New fencing	8,551.00
New Maple Sugar House	10,927.00
Payment on Land Purchase	20,527.00
Purchase of equipment	50,014.00
Payment and interest on 2 loans	31,567.00
Electrical and plumbing update of campgrounds	5,796.00
Total Spent	<u>\$192,715.00</u>

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 24,600 people.

Franklin County Agricultural Society
Farmington Fair
Farmington, Maine

This Fair received the following amounts for the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$2,694.00
2007	25,227.00
2008	30,402.00
2009	35,778.00
2010	45,342.00

Total Received \$139,443.00

This Fair used the Agricultural Fair Support Fund on the following:

Rehab an Old School House moved on to grounds	\$41,978.00
Hot topped midway area	18,412.00
Repairs to Buildings	34,198.00
Purchased a horse barn on Fair Grounds	38,245.00
New Bathroom	56,624.00
Purchased equipment for Fair Grounds	31,131.00
New Fencing	2,950.00

Total Spent \$223,538.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 24,600 people

Hancock County Agricultural Society
Blue Hill Fair
Blue Hill, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$2,112.00
2007	21,330.00
2008	19,897.00
2009	26,370.00
2010	37,837.00

Total Received \$107,546.00

This Fair reported spending the following funds:

Electrical, fencing, and bleachers	\$11,476.00
New buildings and additions to existing building	15,000.00
Improvements to infrastructure	50,206.00

Total spent \$76,682.00

Average reported paid attendance for 2006-2009 is 29,600 people.

Harmony Free Fair
Harmony, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Support Fund:

2006	Was not a licensed Agricultural Fair until 2007	
2007		\$2,659.00
2008		6,173.00
2009		7475.00
2010		8,220.00
Total received		<u>\$24,527.00</u>

This Fair spent the Agricultural Fair Support Funds as follows:

Installed Septic System on Grounds	\$16,998.00
Built new public bathrooms	63,925.00
Build new animal barn	5,640.00
Built new exhibit hall	12,620.00
Improvement to electrical system	5011.00
Total Spent	<u>\$104,194.00</u>

Average reported attendance for 2006-2009 is 9500 people.

Houlton Fair
Houlton, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$2840.00
2007	21,735.00
2008	21,230.00
2009	33,657.00
2010	41,169.00

Total Received \$120,631.00

This Fair reported spending the following funds:

Build new buildings	\$6,033.00
Improvements to buildings	12,220.00
Improvements to grounds	7,380.00
Electrical upgrade	9,095.00
New equipment	14,337.00
Upgrade to entertainment	50,837.00
Purchased land for new Fair Grounds (down payment)	20,000.00
Payment on Exhibit Hall Mortgage	42,500.00
Increased premiums paid	5,500.00
Consultant to lay out new land	7,400.00
Payment on new land	19,005.00

Total Spent \$194,307.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 12,750 people.

This Fair is now using land owned by the Town. They have built some buildings that they plan to move to their new location once the new Fair Ground is built.

Litchfield Farmers Club, Inc.
Litchfield Fair
Litchfield, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,511.00
2007	13,432.00
2008	16,788.00
2009	19,039.00
2010	25,116.00

Total Received \$75,886.00

This Fair reported spending the following funds:

Increase premiums paid to exhibitors	\$37,943.00
New Bathroom	25,158.00
New Livestock scales and building	9,118.00
Repairs and updating of buildings	9,635.00
Additional Entertainment	7,065.00
New Entertainment Stage	8,065.00

Total Spent \$96,984.00

Average paid attendance report for 2006-2009 is 9600 people.

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Common Ground Country Fair
Unity, Maine

This Fair received the following from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,059.00
2007	2,668.00
2008	9,338.00
2009	10,598.00
2010	27,337.00
Total received <u>\$51,000.00</u>	

This Fair reported using the Agricultural Fair Support Funds along with other funding to upgrade their facility.

Construct new exhibition barns, greenhouses, wind-turbine generator, grey water system, fire suppression system, upgrade electrical systems and install solar panels. \$150,815.00

Purchase livestock gates, land improvement 13,193.00

Install new lighting, new communications equipment, signage 22,260.00

Updated kitchen to comply with food-safety code 28,221.00

Purchase of land 139,000.00

Total spent \$353,489.00

Average reported paid attendance for 2006-2009 is 41,830 people.

New Portland Lions Club Agricultural Fair
North New Portland, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$439.00
2007	4,080.00
2008	3,933.00
2009	3,654.00
2010	5,700.00

Total received \$17,806.00

This Fair reported spending the following funds:

Improvements to buildings and build new buildings	\$8,914.00
Improvements to plumbing system	2,357.00
Electrical and PA systems	1,715.00
Repairs to animal pulling ring	1,315.00

Total spent \$14,301.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 4680 people.

Northern Maine Fair
Presque Isle, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$2,740.00
2007	27,333.00
2008	30,976.00
2009	30,188.00
2010	44,542.00

Total received \$135,779.00

This Fair reported spending the following funds on improvements:

New Building	\$125,000.00
Improvements to existing building	31,295.00
New exhibit area	15,000.00
Electrical improvements	52,815.00
Safety Improvements to mechanical pulling track	50,000.00
New fence (State Street)	8,000.00

Total Spent \$282,110.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 24,800 people.

Ossipee Valley Agricultural Fair
South Hiram, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,615.00
2007	15,418.00
2008	17,396.00
2009	21,034.00
2010	24,043.00

Total received \$79,506.00

This Fair reported spending the following funds on improvements:

Premiums Increase Paid	\$8,347.00
Improvements to buildings	4,892.00
Electrical improvements	23,870.00
Plumbing Improvements	4,350.00
Land Improvement	7,014.00
Paving	6,720.00
Digital Time Clock	978.00

Amount Spent \$56,171.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 6500 people.

Oxford County Agricultural Society
Oxford County Fair
Oxford, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund

2006	\$1,994.00
2007	18,234.00
2008	21,942.00
2009	27,692.00
2010	24,919.00

Total Received \$94,781.00

This Fair reported the following funds spent on improvements:

New Buildings	\$98,034.00
Expo 1 improvements	14,634.00
Electrical Improvements	63,329.00
Fencing	7,987.00

Amount spent \$183,984.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2007-2009 is 21,500 people

Piscataquis Valley Fair
Dover- Foxcroft Fair
Dover- Foxcroft, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,254.00
2007	10,774.00
2008	12,740.00
2009	18,280.00
2010	15,992.00

Total Received \$59,040.00

This Fair reported the following funds spent on improvements:

New Bathroom	\$7,503.00
Improvement to existing buildings	11,324.00
New Ice Cream Parlor	6,930.00
New Stage	18,502.00

Amount Spent \$44,259.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 9280 people.

Pittston Fair
Pittston, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,267.00
2007	9,054.00
2008	12,104.00
2009	18,334.00
2010	18,772.00

Total received \$59,531.00

This Fair reported spending the following funds on new equipment and improvements to the fair grounds.

Building repairs and improvements	\$112,748.00
New Equipment	14,106.00
New Buildings	98,242.00
Repairs to utilities	78,147.00
Repairs to outdoor facilities	13,178.00

Total repairs and improvements \$316,421.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 3390 people.

Sagadahoc Agricultural & Horticultural Society
Topsham Fair
Topsham, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,999.00
2007	9,700.00
2008	12,932.00
2009	20,398.00
2010	23,345.00

Total received \$68,374.00

This Fair reported the following funds spent on improvements:

Repairs to Building (exhibit hall)	\$10,800.00
New buildings	4,998.00
New security system	1,347.00
Electrical improvements	23,188.00
Repairs to race track	20,107.00

Amount spent \$60,440.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 18,800 people.

Skowhegan State Fair
Skowhegan, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$4,417.00
2007	43,167.00
2008	53,582.00
2009	57,891.00
2010	64,444.00

Total Received \$223,501.00

This Fair reported the following funds spent:

New fencing	\$9,209.00
New Barn	133,587.00
Purchase of additional Property	84,764.00
Repairs to buildings	15,800.00
Electrical and phone updates	10,594.00
Water line and plumbing improvements	3,727.00
Painting Buildings	6,699.00
New Computers and programs	6,552.00
New Picnic Tables	2,469.00
Paving	17,650.00

Amount spent \$291,251.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 56,000 people.

Springfield Fair Association, Inc.
Springfield Fair
Springfield, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,145.00
2007	9,700.00
2008	12,932.00
2009	20,398.00
2010	23,345.00

Total received \$67,520.00

The Fair reported spending the following on repairs, new structures, and equipment:

Repairs to building	\$35,190.00
New Structures	25,878.00
Electrical and plumbing improvements	12,299.00
Payment on Purchase of additional land (25 acres for parking)	17,695.00
New fencing and earth work	27,136.00
New bleachers	4,124.00
Paid off Note (Refinanced with new mortgage)	25,000.00

Total spent \$147,322.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 12080 people.

State of Maine Wild Blueberry Festival
Union Fair
Union, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$2,906.00
2007	29,506.00
2008	25,886.00
2009	30,701.00
2010	32,777.00

Total received \$92,270.00

This Fair reported the following funds spent on improvements:

New Building (blueberry & 2 barns)	\$60,782.00
Water and drainage improvements	28,794.00
Expansion of parking area and road	52,949.00

Total Spent \$142,525.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 23,900 people.

Waterford World's Fair Association, Inc.
Waterford, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$146.00
2007	1,762.00
2008	3,689.00
2009	4,227.00
2010	4,353.00

Total Received \$5,597.00

This Fair reported sending the following funds on improvements and equipment:

New buildings	\$7945.00
New Bathrooms	30,055.00
Repairs to buildings	15,612.00
Improvements to grounds (walkways, road, show rings)	8,421.00
Electrical improvements	4,567.00
Signs and equipment	2,893.00

Total Spent \$69,493.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 1149 people.

Wesserunsett Valley Fair
Athens, Maine

This Fair has received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$440.00
2007	3,307.00
2008	3,566.00
2009	4,522.00
2010	3,324.00

Total Received \$15,590.00

This Fair reported spending the following for improvements;

Improvements to the Horse ring	\$876.00
Improvements to electrical	513.00
Repairs to Roadways	549.00

Amount Spent \$1,938.00

Average paid attendance from 2006 to 2009 is 1400 people.

West Oxford Agricultural Society
Fryeburg Fair
Fryeburg, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$14,622.00
2007	132,159.00
2008	148,308.00
2009	165,153.00
2010	189,859.00
Total Amount Received	<u>\$650,101.00</u>

This Fair spent the funds received for the Agricultural Fair Support Fund as follows:

Equipment for animal exhibition (pens, etc.)	\$33,879.00
Landscaping and seating for the public	6,722.00
Additional paving	56,960.00
Updating Electrical, Water System, and other Safety Items	194,055.00
Additions and repairs to buildings and Garden Center	105,815.00
New restroom with handicapped access/Mother's Lounge	66,202.00
Development of new exhibit area	18,938.00
New dining and sleeping area for workers and guests	146,215.00
Provide Technology Upgrades	12,379.00
Total Spent	<u>\$641,165.00</u>

Average paid attendance reported 2006-2009 is 171,300 people.

Windsor Fair
Windsor, Maine

This Fair received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$5,047.00
2007	46,165.00
2008	58,619.00
2009	70,068.00
2010	81,002.00

Total received \$260,901.00

This Fair reported spending the following on improvement and expansion:

Increase of premiums paid exhibitors	\$18,043.00
Building and repairs to walkways, roads and outside exhibit areas	126,293.00
Repairs, additions, and new structures	70,146.00
Upgrade electrical and plumbing system	32,939.00
New flag poles	6681.00

Total spent \$254,102.00

Average paid attendance reported for 2006-2009 is 51,200 people.

York Agricultural Association
Acton Fair
Acton, Maine

This Fair has received the following funds from the Agricultural Fair Support Fund:

2006	\$1,318.00
2007	11,409.00
2008	13,522.00
2009	14,806.00
2010	17,384.00
2011	
Total Received	<u>\$58,439.00</u>

The Acton Fair reported that they have spent the following funds:

Paid off loan on newly constructed bathroom	\$5,118.00
Paving on Fair Grounds	5,950.00
Electrical upgrade	3,168.00
Premiums paid to exhibitors	8,960.00
Roof over bleachers	1,050.00
Improvements to Water Supply	2,003.00
New Exhibition/museum Building	32,270.00
Total Spent	<u>\$58,519.00</u>

Average paid attendance from 2006 to 2009 has been 10,800 people.